

We are who we say we are in our own minds. Is that true? It is more true to say we are who we are in God's mind. We can have a lot of funny thoughts and feelings about ourselves. I'm handsome, I'm crazy, people like me; they don't like me. It can go on and on. We can have a lot of wonderful thoughts about ourselves.

But who does God say I am and how can I fill my mind, my soul up with what God thinks about me? By watching 2 or 3 hours of TV at night? By reading the newspaper and watching the news? Probably not. Today's Gospel gives us a great insight into who we really are, "today you will be with me in Paradise."

We all think nasty thoughts. We do nasty things. We think and do good things too but it is the bad that burdens us, that depress us. But Jesus gives us a wonderful message, "this day you will be with Me in paradise!"

Who is God? Is He the harsh, punishing God we have often heard of? God is gonna get you if you don't watch out.

Jesus is King not only because He is mighty and strong. He is King because He loves. He is love and He shows His love so powerfully in His forgiveness.

"This day you will be with me in Paradise." This is the King we follow, who we accept into our hearts. Forgiveness is perhaps God's greatest strength.

So what are you going to do about it? Will you accept this wonderfully forgiving God into your heart? Will you let His forgiveness change your way of thinking and feeling about yourself? If you and I can grasp, can accept Jesus' great forgiveness what we think and believe about ourselves can be transformed. Not only can we taste God's love for ourself but we can walk in a truly new light, we can be born again.

Take time with the Scripture. See how Jesus loves sinners. See how He is always healing, curing, forgiving.

"It's the sick who need a doctor, not the well." "I have come that you may have life in great abundance."